

AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE, NOV.4 2018 ALL SAINTS DAY
FALL SERMON SERIES: FAITH UNSHAKABLE
Week 9 of 10
10 WEEKLY MEDITATIONS ON THE LIFE AND BOOK OF DANIEL
Sermon: HEAVEN; FOR ALL THE SAINTS
Text: Daniel 12:1-4 p. 962

"I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven." Philippians 3:14 (NLT)

"I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward – to Jesus. I'm off and running and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us." Philippians 3:12-15 (Msg)

I. WHERE IS HEAVEN? Heaven is _____

"Lord, I look up to You, up to heaven, where You rule." Psalm 123:1 (TEV)

"Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and ask God's blessing on the food." Mark 6:41 (NLT)

- **Heaven is _____ .**

"But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland." Hebrews 11:16 (NLT)

"But our homeland is in heaven..." Philippians 3:20 (NCV)

"You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand." Psalm 16:11 (NIV)

II. HOW DOES THIS MAKE A DIFFERENCE NOW?

1. REMOVE YOUR DOUBT ABOUT GOING TO HEAVEN

"This is what God told us: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life, but whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:11-12 (NCV)

"I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves, it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NCV)

2. REPLACE YOUR EVERYDAY ANXIETIES WITH THOUGHTS OF HEAVEN.

“We have small troubles for a while now, but they are helping us gain an eternal glory that is much greater than the troubles. We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NCV)

“Let heaven fill your thoughts, don’t spend your time worrying about things down here.”
Colossians 3:1-2 (TLB)

3. REFOCUS YOUR ENERGIES ON TREASURES OF HEAVEN

“... store your treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your treasure is.”
Matthew 6:19-21 (NCV)

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new’” Revelation 21:4-5 (NIV)

Prayer: Lord, I don’t want to live one moment longer with doubt about whether or not I’ll be in heaven. Thank You for sending Jesus to tell me the good news that You love me and You want to welcome me into Your eternal home. Instead of trusting in what I can do to get me into heaven, I trust in the way that You have provided through Jesus’ death and resurrection. I trust You to forgive me and to lead me. I ask today that You would help me to see the problems and worries of this life in light of the hope of heaven. I trust that there will come a day when You will remove our suffering and when You will right every injustice and when You will multiply every joy. As I look forward to the promise of heaven, I’m deciding today to invest my life in eternity. I want to use the gifts and abilities that You have given me to do more than build a good life for myself and family in this world. I want to live for that which also last eternal. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Four For The Road:

- 1, How do you define love?
- 2, How might God’s love be different from our love?
- 3, Why do you think you are going to heaven?
- 4, If a seeker ask you, How do I get to heaven, how would you respond?

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Call To Worship

Leader: For all the saints, O God, who from their labors rest,

People: We glorify your name!

Leader: Vast has been the number of your saints all recorded in your Book of Life.

People: We dedicate this service to the celebration of their witness and of their deeds.

Leader: For all your saints, O God, and especially for those who loved and served you within the fellowship of this congregation,

All: We magnify your holy name! Amen.

Prayer of Confession

O God, on this day devoted to the living memory of the martyrs of the church and to the celebration of the witness of loved ones and friends, we confess that we have mixed feelings. Recalling the faithfulness and courage of Christian men and women who risked, and often sacrificed, their very lives in your Son's service inspires us and frightens us. We know we do not measure up to them, but we feel that we should. Most patient God, help us put an end to our self-deception. Help us to forget what we might have been, what we might have done. Remind us that even the most conspicuous martyrs of the church, even the bravest saints we have known and loved, were ordinary people, subject to the same mixed feelings about their own worth and potential. Then help us concentrate on the present and the future: on the things we might yet do, the persons we might yet be, in Christ's service. Amen.